Vacancies of Judges in Andhra Pradesh High Court

1189. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies in the sanctioned strength of Judges in Andhra Pradesh High Court as on date and since when;

(b) the reasons for the vacancies;

(c) by when these vacancies are likely to be filled;

(d) whether Government propose to increase the strength of Judges in the High Court further to eliminate pendency of cases therein; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (e) Against the approved strength of 39 Additional/permanent Judges in the Andhra Pradesh High Court, 34 Judges are in position, leaving 5 vacancies to be filled up. These vacancies have occurred on the retirement of Judges.

The filling up of vacancies of Judges in the High Courts is a continuous, consultative process among the Constitutional authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies to keep on arising on account of retirement or elevation of Judges as Chief Justice of High Court/Judges of the Supreme Court.

The Government reviews the Judge strength of High Courts periodically every three years. The increase in the Judge strength of a High Court is considered only when the average rate of disposal of main cases in the concerned High Court is above the national average.

Pending rape case in courts

†1190. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases relating to rape which are pending in various courts in the country;

(b) the duration of pendency of the said rape cases;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the reasons for delay in the disposal of these rape cases;

(d) whether Government propose to issue some directions to expedite disposal of rape cases; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) As per the information made available by the National Crime Records Bureau, there were 56,343 cases pending at end of the year 2001.

(b) and (c) The details in respect of duration of pendency of rape cases and reasons of delay are not maintained.

(d) and (e) Government have set up Fast Track Courts for the expeditious disposal of long pending cases, including rape cases.

Setting up of Fast Track Courts

†1191. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 1,734 Fast Track Courts are proposed to be set up in the country under Government sponsored scheme;

(b) if so, the State in which these Courts are to be set up and their number in each State;

(c) the number of Courts out of the same which have become operational by the end of December, 2002 alongwith the details of the States in which they have been set up; and

(d) the amount allocated to each State by Government under the said scheme so far and the amount yet to be allocated?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Statement-I is placed. (*See* below)

(c) Statement-II is placed. (*See* below)

(d) Statement-III is placed. (*See* below). The Eleventh Finance Commission has already allocated the amount to each State under the

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